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AGRICULTURAL ADVANCES IN SPRING 1949

LATVIAN COLLECTIVIZATION PROGRESSES -- Gudok, No 45, 15 Apr 49

At the time of the 1948 spring planting, there were only 189 kilkhazes in Latvia, but their number has now increased to 3,500. They include over 60 per cent of poor and middle-class peasants of the Republic.

The leading uyezds are Talsi and Bauska, where 87 percent of farmers have joined kolkhozes; 80 percent of the farmers have joined in the Riga and Ogre uyezds. The Ikshkile, Ayzkraukle, Betri, and Lielvarde volost's have been completely collectivized.

In the Latvian SSR, 53 MTSs have been organized and 10 more are now being built. The capacity of the tractor park will increase 2.5 times over 1940.

LATVIAN MTS: RECEIVE NEW TRACTORS -- Sovetskaya Latvija, No 70, 25 Mar 49

Two hundred caterpillar tractors have been shipped from the Kharkov Tractor Plant to MTEs in Latvian SSR. About 150 of the tractors have been received. The following MTEs received 11 tractors each: Talsi, Aytseesskaya, Lyudonskaya, Eraslava, and Valka. Latvian MTEs also received 20 trucks, 14 traveling automobile-repair shops (avtoperedvizhiya remontnaya masterskaya), and 20 gasoline-powered machines (bentovoz).

UKRAINE NDS: TOTAL 1,241 -- Pravda Ukrainy, No 71, 26 Mar 49

There are at present 1,241 MTBs in the Ukrainian SSR.

UZBEKISTAN GETS ELECTRIC TRACTOR -- Bakinskiy Rabochiy, No 66, 5 Apr 49

On 4 April at "Kommunist" Kolkhos, the first electric tractor, the ETK-8, was put into operation in Uzbekistan. The tractor was built and equipped at the Central Mechanization Station of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Cotton Growing. A half-kilometer cable extending from a portable

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transformer connected to a power line feeds this electric tractor which is to be used in cotton cultivation. Engineer V. T. Danil'chenko, chief of the group of designers who made the tractor, told a TASS correspondent that the electric tractor could plow up to 20 hectares from one point of connection with the power line and could cover .4 hectare per hour. The tractor can be used to plow, sow, cultivate, and harvest Asiatic cotton, as well as for other field operations. The cost of operating this tractor is 60 percent cheaper than for the usual tractor.

FAR NORTH AGRICULTURAL ADVANCES -- Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 87, 14 Apr 49

Soviet agronomists are now producing a great variety of crops in the Yamalo-Nenets National Okrug. Barley, potatoes, and vegetables are now being grown in Salekhard. In some kolkhozes, 20 to 23 tons of potatoes per hectare are obtained. Apple trees, cabbages, turnips, tomatoes, and cucumbers are also being cultivated at this settlement on the 66th parallel. The agronomists grow oats and peas around the tomato plants to protect them from the cold air.

ARMENIAN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY REPAIR LAGS -- Kommunist, No 79, 5 Apr 49

At the second plenum of the Armenian Council of Trade Unions, Chairman Kazaryan warned that some trade-union organizations were not participating adequately in spring-planting activities. He stated that trade-union members of the Kalinino, Gukasyan, Noyemboryan, Martuni, Azizbekov, and Sevan MTSs still had not completed repair of agricultural machinery. The plenum proposed that the Republic Council of Trade Unions develop socialist competition among the workers and employees of MTSs, sovkhozes, and agricultural organs, take decisive measures to improve cultural and living conditions of MTS and sovkhoz workers, and organize nurseries and kindergartens during the planting season.

KAZAKH MEAT AND DAIRY INDUSTRY LAGS -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 63, 1 Apr 49

A conference of economic administrators of the Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry Kazakh SSR considered the results of 1948 and plans for 1949. Minister Yedygenov reported that production of butter, meat, cheese has increased considerably over 1940. The enterprises of the Ministry, however, did not fulfill the 1948 plan and completed the plans for production of only four out of 12 main products. Production of meat, canned goods, cheese, Caucasian cheese, and soap was considerably below the plan.

Enterprises of "Glavnyaso" (Main Administration of the Meat Industry) in particular, have been lagging. Only five of the 16 meat combines fulfilled the 1948 plan. Only 11 of the 16 oblast butter trusts of the Main Administration of the Butter Industry (chief, Khanin) completed the plan. Only 94.6 percent of the 1948 plan for accumulations in the Ministry's enterprises was completed and the State failed to receive 2,352,000 rubles in accumulations. Productivity of the sovkhozes and combines of the "Kazsovkhozptitseprom" (Kazakh Sovkhoz Poultry Industry) Trust was extremely low. The egg yield was only 46 percent of the plan and costs were very high.

The Ministry is also failing to fulfill the Five-Year Plan for capital construction. The Ministry had enough building materials at its disposal in 1948 to construct 10 creameries and five refrigerator plants, but allowed these materials to be used in secondary projects. The Alma-Ata Meat-Canning Combine has been under construction for 10 years and the Aktyubinsk and Dzhambul Refrigerator Plants are still in the process of construction after 5 years.

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NOVOSIBIRSK BUTTER INDUSTRY INCREASES -- Sovetskaya Sibir', No 55, 20 Mar 49

Krotov, director of the Novosibirsk Oblast Butter Industry Trust, reporting at an industry conference 14-16 March, stated that the industry produced 105,000 more p. l of butter in 1948 than in 1947 and 84 percent of all butter produced was high quality. Butter quality has not yet attained the prewar level when 94.6 percent was high grade.

The volume of butter production is to be sharply increased this year in accordance with a number of decrees of the TsK VKP(b) and the Soviet of Ministers USSR which call for an increase in the industry in Novosibirsk Oblast, and particularly in the Barabinsk Steppe. The enterprises are also expected to release 1,200,000 rubles of working capital in 1949. It was also reported that production of cheese in the oblast is only 70 percent of the prewar level.

LATVIAN SSR HALTS CATTLE SLAUGHTER -- Sovetskaya Latvija, No 77, 2 Apr 49

The Soviet of Ministers Latvian SSR has found that the Ministry of Agriculture Latvian SSR, the executive committees of uyezd, volost', and village soviets, ministries, and organizations which have sovkhoses and auxiliary farm holding, unions of agricultural and dairy cooperatives of the Latvian SSR, are not taking sufficient steps to fulfill the 1949 State plan for the development of animal husbandry. The executive committees of uyezd and city soviets of workers' deputies have not taken the measures necessary to stop slaughter of pedigreed calves and have not organized exchange of pedigreed cattle for unpedigreed in kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and auxiliary farm holdings.

In order to insure fulfillment of the 1949 animal-husbandry program, the Soviet of Ministers Latvian SSR has forbidden peasant farms, workers and employees, kolkhoz workers, and auxiliary and cooperative farm holding to slaughter for meat horses of all ages, large cattle, including bulls used for breeding, calves of all ages, ewes and sows with young, and also bulls bred from cattle registered in the State or uyezd pedigree registers.

Killing of such cattle will be permitted only when unsuitability of the animal for further reproduction has been certified by orders of the commissions for cattle selection, the representatives of executive committees of village soviets, zootechnicians or veterinarians, and confirmed by the sessions of the executive committees of village and volost' soviets and by chiefs of the agricultural sections of uyezd executive committees. Meat control stations are forbidden to accept meat for observation and branding without such an order.

Peasant farms, kolkhozes, cooperative and auxiliary farm holdings may sell horses and large cattle only after completing the plan for animal husbandry development, and obtaining a written authorization from the executive committees of volost' soviets of workers' deputies. The executive committees of volost' soviets are forbidden to issue authorization for slaughter of any cattle to peasant farms, kolkhozes, cooperative and auxiliary farm holdings which have not fulfilled the State plan for the development of animal husbandry.

The Soviet of Ministers Latvian SSR has ordered the Ministry of Agriculture Latvian SSR and the executive committees of uyezd and volost' soviets to conduct systematic checks on the fulfilling of the plan by peasant farm holdings, and to make criminally responsible any individual who fraudulently fails to fulfill the plan and permits waste and slaughter of cattle.

State and cooperative organizations which are permitted to procure cattle, must follow strictly all orders pertaining to the buying of cattle. Procurers are forbidden to buy unbranded meat.

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Prosecution, court, and militia agencies are ordered to strengthen the drive against fraudulent slaughter of cattle and hold those who breed the law criminally responsible.

CANNING INDUSTRY EQUALS PREWAR OUTPUT -- Sovetskaya Moldaviya, No 17, 26 Jan 49

S. Zhdanovich, director of the Moldavian Canning Trust, reports that in 1948, the Republic's canning industry increased production 7 times over 1945 and achieved the finished-goods production level of 1940, when 48 million cans were produced. The industry exceeded the prewar level for productivity of decreased production costs by 4½ million rubles, and gave the State 3½ million rubles in above-plan accumulations. In 1948, the Moldavian canning industry took third place in the USSR for output of canned goods.

FISH-INDUSTRY PERSONNEL NEEDS TRAINING -- Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 71, 26 Mar 49

Enterprises of "Glavamurbyprom" (Main Administration of the Amur Fish Industry) are scheduled to produce considerably more this year than in 1948, a task which necessitates introduction of modern catching equipment, improvement of the shore economy, extensive mechanization of labor-consuming processes, and elimination of the lag between catching and processing fish.

The situation in regard to personnel training in the administration is alarming. It will be necessary to train 1,370 coopers, mechanics, metal workers, carpenters and other skilled workers for the Okhotsk Trust. The entire administration needs more than 4,000 new specialists. Many mechanics, heads of fishing units, net fishermen, fish breeders, and salting and canning specialists need to increase their skills. Only 216 persons had been trained by the first of February and training of unskilled workers has not been started at all.

The main cause for this serious condition is the failure of enterprise directors to guide and assist the training of specialists in training combines and PZO schools. School buildings and equipment are in poor shape, recruiting students is not carried out systematically, and disorder prevails in the entire training system.

OKHOTSK FISH INDUSTRY INCREASES MECHANIZATION -- Tikhookeanskaya Zvezda, No 54, 6 Mar 49

In 1949, enterprises and kolkhozes of the Okhotsk shore are pledged to increase the fish catch by almost 1,500,000 pnd over 1948. The Okhotsk plants are being provided with the most modern equipment, including risin pumps, hydraulic conveyors, elevators, and other machinery. A large number of skilled mechanics, engine operators, and electric welders are needed to assemble and run the new machinery. The Okhotsk fish plants do not have these skilled workers. Workers in the Khabarovsk Plant imeni Gor'kiy have decided to send an assembly brigade of skilled mechanics and electric welders to Okhotsk to assemble the fish pumps. All enterprises are asked to assist the fish enterprises to prepare for the new season.

COTTON COMBINE AWARDED ORDER OF LENIN -- Zarya Vostoka, No 55, 22 Mar 49

In connection with its 100th anniversary, the Order of Lenin has been awarded to the Glukhov Cotton Combine imeni Lenin, Ministry of Light Industry USSR, for its successes in producing cotton fabric. The ukase announcing the award was dated 16 March 1949 and signed by N. Shvernik, chairman of Presidium of Supreme Soviet USSR and A. Gorkin, secretary of Presidium of Supreme Soviet USSR.

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COTTON ADMINISTRATION DIRECTS AGRICULTURE -- Kommunist, No 79, 5 Apr 49

The Main Cotton Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture USSR directs all branches of agriculture in the Central Asia republics and the Azerbaydzhani SSR, and the production of cotton in the remaining cotton-growing republics, krais, and oblasts.

MEDICINAL CAMPHOR PRODUCED IN ABKHAZ ASSR -- Zarya Vostoka, No 56, 24 Mar 49

The Abkhaz Section of Main Druggists' Administration, Ministry of Health Georgian SSR, has supervised the production of medicinal camphor for about 15 years. From 100 to 150 tons of camphor laurel leaf are prepared every year in Abkhaz ASSR, the greater part coming from the industrial plantations of Babusheri, Gul'ripshskiy Rayon.

The raw material goes first to the Babusheri Volatile Oil Processing Plant, where raw camphor is extracted from the leaves. The raw camphor is sent to Sukhumi, where a special process produces refined medicinal camphor and, as a by-product, volatile camphor oil. The season for preparing and processing camphor leaves lasts from November to the end of March. The camphor production of Abkhaz ASSR supplies Georgia.

FORESTATION IN SOUTHERN STEPPES PROGRESSING -- Krasnyy Flot, No 80, 6 Apr 49

Extensive planting of trees is being done in 12 oblasts of the Ukraine, in Krasnodar Kray, Stavropol' Kray, and Rostov Oblast.

Kolkhozes of Crimea Oblast were the first ones in the Soviet Union to fulfill the spring plan for planting trees in the forest belts. A large number of mulberry, locust, apple, and other fruit trees, have been planted in the Crimean steppes. Planting is progressing successfully in the kolkhozes of Ukraine, where the new forest belts cover about 3,000 hectares. Forestation plans in the southern oblasts of the Kazakh SSR are also going ahead according to plan.

In the Crimea, Rostov, and Krasnodar areas, young trees have been planted by machinery, covering an area of several hundred hectares.

Tree nurseries are being planted in the Ukraine, Kuban', and Rostov Oblast.

The forestation centers of the South have started to prepare the soil in forestation belts for the coming year.

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